

Subject: Your February Neighborhoods First Newsletter

From: Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter <updates@11thdistrict.com>

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To: lisa@mediadistrict.org

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- MAR VISTA - MARINA PENINSULA -
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NEWSLETTER

Neighborhoods First

February 2016

Welcome to the February issue of Mike Bonin's "Neighborhoods First Newsletter"!

[Use this link](#) to read this issue on our website or share it with your friends on social media.

IN THIS ISSUE: We find out about new stop signs and street repaving projects on the Westside, some exciting developments in public transportation, and a new crime-fighting tool at a world-famous tourist attraction... **but first**, please read this month's Neighborhoods First Profile about a local principal who is leading an effort to reduce traffic on one of the worst chokepoints in Los Angeles.

You can find out more [about Mike](#), [meet your CD11 staff](#) and [see the latest videos](#) and updates from the Westside on our website at www.11thdistrict.com. And remember to [like Mike's Facebook page](#) and [follow him on Twitter](#) to always see the latest news about your neighborhood.

Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST PROFILE

Paul Revere Middle School Principal Tom Iannucci Engages Neighbors in Solutions to Gridlock on Sunset Boulevard

Brentwood's Paul Revere Charter Middle School is an exceptional school that has students from 99 different zip codes attending the terrific institution. Much like other institutions located along the Sunset Boulevard corridor, however, Paul Revere is located at a very challenging place, and traffic to and from the school contributes to the intense gridlock on Sunset.

The school's new principal, Tom Iannucci has been confronting this challenge head-on, and has launched an effort to reduce school-related traffic by forming a Traffic and Safety Committee. The Committee includes parents Matthew Rodman,

Kimberley Brame, Lisa Meyers-Kunis, Dani Shear, Behnanz Naeim and Bruce Jugan and neighbor Andrew Wolfberg. Together with school administrators Justin Koretz and Lori Vogel, they are working on a creative approach to reducing traffic and congestion on Sunset. We asked Principal Iannucci a few questions about the committee and the work it is doing to put neighborhoods first in Brentwood.



Paul Revere is an exceptional school at a challenging location. How are you approaching the difficult issue of traffic congestion near the school?

Revere staff, community members and parents are looking for alternative forms of transportation to help reduce traffic congestion along the Sunset, San Vicente area. We have partnered with the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus who has designated Revere as a stop. We are working with private charter bus companies to set up a for-fee charter bus to bring students to Revere. We are looking into a carpooling app which would connect Revere families with other families in their neighborhood to set up daily carpools. And we are partnering with some of the private schools (Brentwood) to organize shared bus transportation to reduce traffic at both schools.

Tell us about the Traffic and Safety Committee you formed. Who is included in the committee and what are the committee's goals?

It was formed with the intention of reducing traffic and increasing student safety. Revere had had a few students hit by cars over the last few years and we saw a need to slow down and reduce the amount of cars in our area. A few conversations with some area residents (Andrew Wolfberg) and parents (Lori Vogel, Matt Rodman, Bruce Jugen, and Dani Sheer) got the ball rolling and the rest is history.

How important is it that the committee includes not just school staff and parents, but also local neighbors and home-owner organizations?

It is essential to include all parties affected by our traffic. Our neighbors and local community are affected most by our traffic. It is through their cooperation that we know where the most impacted areas are. Our mission at Revere is to be good neighbors and partners in the community where we work. Our house just happens to have 2100 children living in it each day. We want everyone to understand that we are here to work with you not against. I have to listen to their needs (community) that is the only way we can address traffic and the safety of our students.

What else should neighbors know about the work you are doing with the Traffic and Safety Committee?

Just that we value their participation and input. Our neighbors are as much part of the Revere community as the students and staff who enter its doors every day.

Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Improving Security at World-Renowned Tourist Attraction



Fulfilling a commitment he made shortly after taking office, Mike is thrilled to report that new, high-tech, durable security cameras have been installed at Venice Beach.

Mike has been working with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the LAPD to install security cameras in Venice Beach - a long overdue safety upgrade for the world-famous tourist attraction, and he helped complete the camera installation last month. The cameras, which have been installed throughout the public park, are monitored by trained LAPD officers and have already started helping prevent and solve crimes at the beach. The cameras have proven effective, and LAPD officers have already used the cameras to assist in arrests. Thank you to Samsung, the city staff and community leaders who helped bring this safety upgrade to the neighborhood, commercial district and tourist attraction!

Neighbors Unite for Solutions at Sunset Boulevard Community Traffic Workshop



One of the toughest issues in the City of Los Angeles is traffic gridlock - and one of the worst chokepoints in the region is Sunset Boulevard near the 405. It's a long-standing problem that seems like it keeps getting worse - but Mike refuses to throw up his hands and is determined to work with neighborhoods to find some common sense solutions.

On February 6, Mike hosted a community workshop with hundreds of neighbors from Brentwood to help find ways to improve the intolerable gridlock on Sunset Boulevard. The interactive, solutions-focused workshop began by hearing about proposed solutions from traffic engineers and transportation experts, and then broke into a charrette-style workshop to gather input on different ideas in small groups. Mike is open to any idea that could help -- big and small, general or intersection-specific -- and nothing is off the table for discussion.

Mike and his staff are now busy reviewing the feedback offered on February 6, as well as preparing to reach out to the broader community to also seek their ideas. As promised at the meeting, an online version of the live-polling survey used at the workshop will be made available to gather even more input, and Mike will then release the results of the feedback so we can discuss what solutions would have the greatest impact on reducing traffic on Sunset, and which ideas have the most neighborhood support.

[Click here to watch the panels from the day and take the interactive online survey.](#)

Update: Neighborhood Traffic in Westchester



Mike and his team are working with neighbors to combat a sudden and dramatic uptick in traffic through residential neighborhoods in Westchester. While traffic is an issue throughout the Westside, the Westport Heights and Osage neighborhoods of Westchester started seeing a sharp increase in cut-through traffic in recent months.

Mike, his staff and experts from LADOT have been out to the area on multiple occasions to observe the situation and study what could be done to solve this extremely frustrating problem. The studies have revealed that much of the traffic entering these neighborhoods is cut-through traffic from south of Osage as a result of traffic apps, and so LADOT has identified and is proposing to implement a series of solutions to minimize cut-through traffic in the neighborhood, including: restricting through traffic on 74th St north of La Tijera Blvd from 7-9 am, Monday - Friday; restricting through traffic on 79th St north of La Tijera Blvd from 7-9 am, Monday - Friday, and restricting through traffic on Airport Blvd north of La Tijera Blvd from 7-9 am, Monday - Friday.

Studies also revealed that very few vehicles are able to access the 405 freeway at La Tijera Boulevard. Mike's staff and LADOT are working with Caltrans to discuss options for improving the ramp metering onto the 405 to reduce vehicles queuing on La Tijera Boulevard.

Mike will be hosting a community meeting to discuss the proposed changes on March 22 at 7:30pm at the Westchester Community Room (7166 W Manchester Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045). Find out more in the calendar section of the newsletter below.

Mike Installs New Stop Sign Near Park in Playa del Rey



Mike Installs
NEW STOP SIGN
in Playa del Rey

Mike loves rolling up his sleeves and working with city crews to put neighborhoods first - and that is how we kicked off the month. Mike helped a crew from the LA Department of Transportation install stop signs and limit lines at the corner of Convoy Street and Pacific Avenue in Playa del Rey on February 1.

The new stop signs, which had been requested by residents, will help make the area safer for neighbors walking to the beach, as well as for kids playing at nearby Del Rey Lagoon Park.

Narrow Venice Streets Get Resurfaced

**STREET
REPAVING**
in Venice



The City has taken steps to fix a nagging problem for people driving near the beach in Venice. Roads in Venice, including a series of streets between Pacific Avenue and Speedway Avenue, were repaved by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services the week of February 18. Many of the narrow streets had potholes that made life difficult for both residents and visitors, and the repaving work is greatly appreciated.

Pole-top Substations Proposed in the Pacific Palisades



POLE-TOP SUBSTATIONS
Proposed for the Pacific Palisades

Controversy is brewing in the Pacific Palisades over steps LADWP is taking to provide a reliable power source and reduce blackouts.

Earlier this month, the LA Department of Water and Power proposed installing two temporary pole-top substations in the Pacific Palisades to help address power reliability

issues throughout the neighborhood. Since the proposal was first presented to the community, important questions have been asked about the safety of the equipment and the locations proposed for the temporary power infrastructure. Mike shares the concerns that have been expressed, and is insisting that LADWP address them by hosting a community meeting to directly answer questions from neighbors. That meeting has been scheduled for March 14 at 7:30pm at Marquez Elementary School - [click here to RSVP](#).

Mike Hosts Access 11 "Pop Up Office Hours" in West LA



Mike hosted "Pop Up Office Hours" at the West LA Farmers Market on February 21, helping make sure people on the Westside don't need to trek downtown to meet with their local representative. Dozens of neighbors stopped by on the beautiful Sunday to discuss traffic, homelessness and other important issues in West LA neighborhoods.

Milton Street Park Opens in Del Rey



Del Rey has a beautiful new park!

Milton Street Park, a new 1.2-acre linear urban park alongside the Ballona Creek Bike Trail in Del Rey, opened in February at a ceremony attended by community leaders and children from nearby Marina del Rey Middle School. The park incorporates numerous green design elements, including the use of recycled materials, native planting, flow through planters and treatment alongside the 1000-ft long, 45-ft wide stretch of land. A variety of special elements such as bird watching platforms, bike trail enhancements, seating areas and outdoor picnic areas also enhance the visitor experience along the trail. The park was created and will be managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

"Curb Cuts" Installed in Westchester Neighborhood to Improve Accessibility



Sidewalks in a Westchester neighborhood got a big safety and accessibility upgrade in February, as the Bureau of Street Services installed a series of access ramps to corners along Osage Avenue. The "curb cuts" will help make sidewalks easier to navigate for people in wheelchairs and parents pushing strollers. Thank you to the hard-working Bureau of Street Services employees who made the neighborhood improvement happen!

Nike Installs Trash Cans in WLA Civic Center



Thanks to Nike, the West LA Civic Center is going to look a heck of a lot cleaner.

Each year, Nike hosts "Go Skateboarding Day" at the West LA Civic Center - a fun community celebration of the historic skate spot. The benefits of "Go Skateboarding Day" extend beyond the annual celebration, however, and new trash cans were recently installed in the Civic Center area thanks to Nike's partnership with the community.

People's Path Extension Approved for Brentwood



Neighborhood leaders in Mandeville Canyon are working with the City to create a "People's Path" that will make it easier for pedestrians to safely navigate and appreciate the nature and environment of one of the City's most beautiful streets.

Starting in 2005, the Mandeville Canyon Association worked to create a People's Path pedestrian walkway that begins in lower Mandeville at Sunset Boulevard and extends north on Mandeville Canyon Road. Mike is working with great community leaders like Kathleen

Durbin to create a safe environment for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as to beautify Mandeville. In mid-February, the Board of Public Works agreed with Mike's request to issue a permit that will allow the Path to continue farther up Mandeville. Congratulations to the neighborhood!

Find out more about the People's Path at <http://themca.org/Mandeville-Foundation>.

Sound Off: Comment Period for Centinela Streetscape Project Open

CENTINELA STREETSCAPE PLAN



A pedestrian and bike friendly commercial corridor for Del Rey

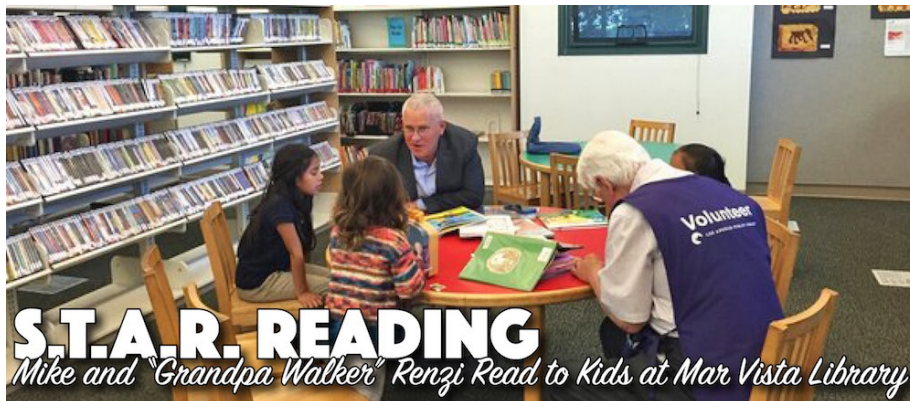
Efforts are underway to improve the look and feel of the Centinela corridor in Del Rey - and we need your feedback.

Mike has been working with the Del Rey Neighborhood Council and Department of City Planning to develop a plan that will offer pedestrian and bike safety, new sustainable landscaping and an improved look to the Centinela corridor. This will not only give Del Rey a great neighborhood street to enjoy, but it will bolster local businesses by bringing in new customers.

The Centinela Streetscape Plan is part of the larger Westside Mobility Plan's "Livable Boulevards Street Plan," which is in the process of gathering comments and input from neighbors.

You can read the plan and offer your comments at <http://www.westsidemobilityplan.com/additional-resources/>. For more information about the plan, please contact Steven Katigbak from the Department of City Planning at steven.katigbak@lacity.org.

Mike Reads to Kids at Mar Vista Public Library



S.T.A.R. READING

Mike and "Grandpa Walker" Renzi Read to Kids at Mar Vista Library

Did you know the Los Angeles library system has a great program where seniors read to schoolchildren? Mike joined longtime neighborhood volunteer "Grandpa Walter" Renzi to read to a group of kids at the Mar Vista Branch Library on February 18 as part of Los Angeles Public Library's STAR (Story Telling and Reading) program. The great program was created to bring children and adults together to share in the joy of reading. Find out

more about the STAR program at <http://www.lapl.org/kids/birth-5/star>

Sand Cleared From Ocean Front Walk in Venice



With heavy El Niño winds at the beginning of the month blowing sand from Venice Beach onto Ocean Front Walk, local businesses and visitors woke up to hills of sand blocking the walkway on the world-renowned tourist destination. Thankfully, the Department of Recreation and Parks acted quickly, dispatching equipment to return the sand to the beach and clearing Ocean Front Walk so residents, customers and tourists could safely enjoy Venice Beach.

Welcome to "Downtown Playa Vista"



Neighbors in the newest community on the Westside are getting the local shops and restaurants that make neighborhoods complete. On February 10, it was announced that Runway at Playa Vista - a retail, residential and office development that was billed as the "downtown of Playa Vista" - was sold to a Dallas investment firm. The mixed-use development, which cost \$300 million to develop, was sold for \$475 million, a clear signal of the impressive promise of the area to be a community hub for Playa Vista and nearby communities in the future.

Westchester Park Improvements Continue



Westchester Park has seen some significant improvements in recent years, and we're not done yet!

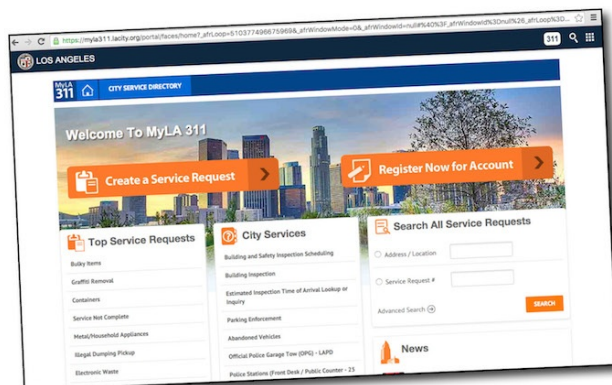
Last year, Mike worked with neighbors, Recreation and Parks staff and Park Advisory Boardmembers like Scott Carni to get security cameras and new lights installed in Westchester Park to help improve safety at the treasured community space. Improvements are continuing at the park, and a digital sign was recently installed, which notifies neighbors of community events as they drive, walk or bike on Manchester Avenue. More park upgrades are planned for the near future, including the installation of new batting cages. Thank you to everyone in Westchester who is continuing to make Westchester Park an even better, safer and more fun place for the neighborhood to enjoy!

Bureau of Street Services Keeping Streets Safe During Wind Storms



On February 19, winds blew sand from nearby beaches onto local roads in Playa del Rey, causing a hazard for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. The Bureau of Street Services responded to the issue immediately, sweeping the streets and improving safety for beachgoers and neighbors.

New 311 Website Launches



**SIMPLER
SERVICE
REQUESTS**
*Meet the New
311 Website*

Got a problem you want the City to fix? We're making it easier to report problems and get results.

The City's 311 website was recently overhauled to be more user-friendly, and now includes functions like "search service requests" and simpler menus to help make requesting service as easy as possible. This is a big deal for everyone who helps to improve their neighborhood by reporting issues to the City so they can be addressed.

[Check it out here.](#)



City and County Simultaneously Approve Homelessness Strategy Reports



On February 9, after several months of hard work and coordination, the City and County of Los Angeles approved complementary and coordinated strategies to address LA's homelessness crisis. You can read the strategy reports here:

http://www.11thdistrict.com/homelessness_strategy_reports

Building on the new and expanded programming Mike and his colleagues on the City Council have provided over the past several months, the strategy is comprehensive and multi-faceted, calling for long-term solutions, such as permanent supportive housing, and immediate strategies to deal with the proliferation of encampments, such as rental subsidies, bridge housing, and voluntary public storage.

If ending homelessness is a marathon, Mike told his colleagues before the vote, the approval of the plans was tantamount to filling out the paperwork to register for the race. Now it is time for us to do the work. The implementation of the plan will require significant financial resources, some of which Mayor Garcetti, Mike and the City Council will allocate through the budget process, but much of which may need to come from a ballot measure. Mike has strongly supported going to the ballot to ask voters to approve additional resources to combat homelessness.

Mike Discusses Homelessness at Jewish Community Forum



Leaders of the Jewish community are eager to help the City and County implement their strategies to combat homelessness.

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism has a history of exceptional advocacy work in justice and equality issues, and on February 1, the Center hosted a panel conversation with Mike, State Senator Ben Allen and Assemblyman Richard Bloom to discuss homelessness and ways the Jewish community could engage in solutions for the growing problem in Los Angeles. The panel discussion was hosted by University Synagogue in Brentwood and more than 50 members of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism attended and participated in the conversation.

Wendy Greuel Appointed to Homelessness Services Authority



WENDY GREUEL

Appointed to Homelessness Services Authority

The Commission overseeing the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority is adding an exceptional leader to its ranks. In early February, Mike was part of a unanimous Council vote approving the appointment of former City Controller and Councilmember Wendy Greuel to serve on the LAHSA commission. Wendy's experience and leadership will be a tremendous asset as the County and City invest more responsibility in LAHSA to implement our new homeless strategies, and Mike applauds Mayor Garcetti's excellent nomination.



Progress Toward Revolutionary "Landside Access Modernization Plan" at LAX



Excitement is growing over the tremendous changes we're making at LAX - and especially over the new transportation options we're creating to get to and from the airport.

On February 4, Mike, Mayor Garcetti and Bob Blumenfield, Mike's colleague on the council committee overseeing LAX, welcomed guests at an exciting forum to discuss the "Landside Access Modernization Program." The Program, which will revolutionize how people get to and from the region's largest airport, includes an automated people-mover that will connect a new Metro station, consolidated rental car and intermodal transportation facilities to LAX's airline terminals. This will not only make getting to and from LAX much more convenient, but it will take cars off the roads of Westchester and Playa del Rey, which will be a big improvement for both local traffic and the environment. This is how LAX becomes a world-class airport, and a first-class neighbor.

Find out more about the Landside Access Modernization Program in [this short video](#) from Los Angeles World Airports.

M MOVING FORWARD: TRANSPORTATION

Expo Phase 2 Opening Announced



Huge news for transportation on the Westside - the Expo Light Rail Line is complete, tested and scheduled to open this Spring! Passengers can start boarding the finished Expo Line on May 20.

The first phase of the Expo Line connected downtown Los Angeles with Culver City, and the number of riders drastically exceeded expectations, as people flocked to the easier way to get around Los Angeles without the headache of traffic (especially on the 10 freeway). Now, Phase 2 of the Expo Line will extend an additional 6.6 miles through the 11th District to downtown Santa Monica, allowing people to ride a total of 15.2 miles from the beach to downtown.

Phase 2 includes six new stations for the Westside, including: Palms, Westwood/Rancho Park, Expo/Sepulveda, Expo Bundy, 26th St./Bergamot, 17th St./SMC and Downtown Santa Monica.

A More Sustainable Metro



On February 25, the Metro board voted to approve a proposal asking Metro staff to report to the board on a series of key issues and initiatives, including: improved tracking of air-quality efforts (including a goal of reducing nitrogen oxide emissions 80% by 2025); an expansion of Metro's Green Construction Policy to require all future projects to conserve and reuse water, use sustainable building materials, and designate a Sustainability Officer; strategies to improve connectivity & enhance "First-and-Last Mile" connections to our transit system, including expanding the car-share pilot program to at least ten additional park-and-rides in Metro-owned lots; creation of a Regional Active Transportation Network in coordination with local municipalities, and; strategies to better deploy technology and promote the creation of green jobs in LA.

The motion, which Mike co-authored with Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Supervisor Hilda Solis will improve how the countywide transportation agency protects and improves the environment while providing transportation service to more than 1.4 million riders.

Mike Makes it Easier to Protect Neighborhood Parking

PARKING REFORM

Making it Easier to
**PROTECT NEIGHBORHOOD
PARKING**



Mike is hard at work, cutting red tape to make it easier for neighborhoods to find relief from parking shortages.

Preferential Parking Districts (PPDs) are an excellent tool to help neighborhoods protect parking on local streets, but cumbersome bureaucracy and staffing shortages have made it increasingly difficult for neighbors to get requests for PPDs approved by the city. Currently, there is a large backlog of PPD requests and while it usually takes roughly nine months to process a normal request, due to the backlog, new requests are estimated to take approximately two years to complete!

Mike and Seleta Reynolds, General Manager of LADOT, are working to fix this unacceptable delay in providing service to neighborhoods. Under their leadership, the department is drastically reducing both the backlog and time it takes to process PPD applications. Thanks to the streamlined process, processing a PPD request will soon only take six months - a big improvement for neighbors looking to ensure parking is available for residents in busy areas of Los Angeles.

Bike Share Gearing Up in Venice



Bike share is a great way to make getting around town for short trips convenient and fun, and it is coming to the Westside soon.

At the end of February, both the Los Angeles and Santa Monica City Councils approved an agreement permitting the installation of the five Breeze Bike Share stations in Venice. The Breeze Bike Share program allows people to rent bikes at locations throughout Santa Monica (and soon Venice), and return the bikes at any station. This is a great way to help people get around without needing a car and contributing to traffic on Westside

neighborhood streets. The five stations in Venice include: Venice Blvd at Abbot Kinney Blvd, California Ave at Abbot Kinney Blvd, Windward Plaza, Ocean Front Walk at Rose Ave, and Rose Ave at 5th St.

Meanwhile, LA Metro is rolling out a countywide bike share program, and Mike is advocating for putting the Westside on the fast-track for installation.

Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter

NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST PLANNING

Protecting Affordable Housing on the Coast: City Moving Forward with Permanent Mello Act Ordinance



Mike and his staff are working hard to protect affordable housing in the coastal neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

More than 30 years ago, California adopted the Mello Act to protect affordable housing in coastal areas. The legislation, which requires that affordable housing units be preserved or replaced as buildings are renovated or rebuilt, led the city to adopt an interim process for applying the Mello Act to local land use decisions while a permanent ordinance was drafted.

The creation of that permanent ordinance is long overdue, and Mike has introduced legislation calling on the Planning Department to finally draft a permanent ordinance in order to better protect and create affordable housing in some of LA's most desirable communities. The City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee heard Mike's motion earlier this month and unanimously approved his request for the Planning Department and Housing and Community Investment Department to work with the City Attorney to finally draft a permanent Mello Act ordinance for Los Angeles.

Citywide Planning Initiative Update



The City is engaged in a major overhaul of how it thinks about and approves planning and

development projects.

The City is conducting a comprehensive update of the Zoning Code - something that hasn't been done since the Code was first adopted in 1946 as an 84-page pamphlet. The re:Code team has been working on this project for approximately two-and-a-half years now, and they are ready to unveil the first components of the new Zoning Code. The Planning Department is hosting seven open house public forums throughout the City from mid-March through late-April for an up-close look at the new code.

The re:Code effort is being led by an experienced team of planners from the City Planning Department as well as a diverse team of expert consultants. Additionally, the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) provides guidance on zoning policy direction. The 21 individuals who make up the ZAC play a vital role in the re:Code process. They represent a variety of stakeholder interests ranging from academia (environmental, transportation, and design), neighborhood organizations, social activism, business, and development. The ZAC members possess valuable expertise and unique perspectives on zoning and planning in the City of Los Angeles. Mar Vista's own Sharon Commins is a Co-Chair of ZAC. The ZAC meets once a month, and the meetings are open to the public.

The re:Code project website with tons of information can be found here: <http://recode.la/>
Info on the public forums can be found here: <http://recode.la/updates/news/public-forums-sneak-peek-new-zoning-code>

You can see the ZAC meeting calendar (and other re:Code events) here: <http://recode.la/updates/events>

People can sign up to get updates from the Planning Department on the re:Code process here: <http://recode.la/contact>

Martin Town Center - Second Public Meeting Scheduled



Last month, the City Planning Department hosted the first public hearing on a proposed mixed-use development project at the Martin Cadillac site on the corner of Olympic and Bundy in West LA. This project is proposing to build residential units, office space, and retail stores near the soon to be opened Expo Line station at Olympic and Bundy. This is a significant project for Westside communities, and it could have a major impact on the future of our neighborhoods.

Mike feels strongly that transparency and public input are crucial components of the planning process - especially for a project of this size, so he insisted that the Planning Department host additional public hearings to allow you to offer input on the project. Another hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 4:00 pm at the West Los Angeles Municipal Building's Second Floor Hearing Room (1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025).

You can find out more about the meeting

Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter

LEGISLATION

Find Out More About the City Council's Work to Put Neighborhoods First

City Stepping Up to Regulate Oil and Gas Operations in LA

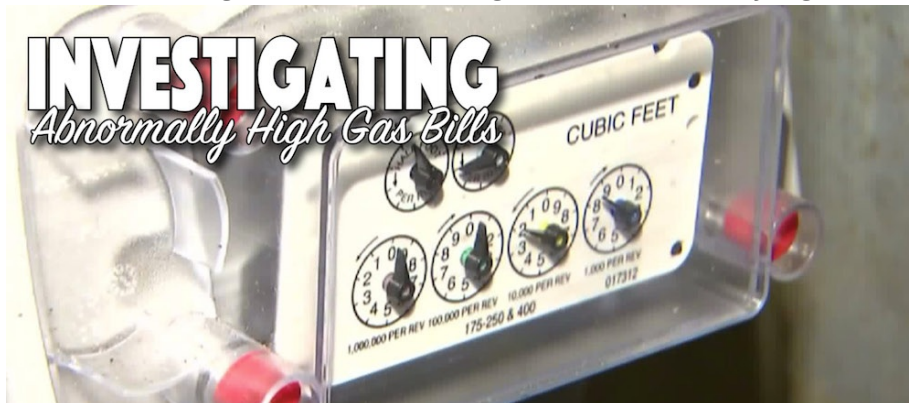


The City does a lousy job managing vitally important oil and gas issues, and Mike and his colleagues are taking steps to fix that.

On February 17, the City Council approved a motion to hire a full-time and qualified Petroleum Administrator to oversee oil and gas operations in Los Angeles. For decades, oil and gas management in LA was managed by a dedicated city employee, but in recent history, that responsibility has fallen by the wayside. Far too much drilling has been allowed in our neighborhoods without proper oversight and protections from neighbors.

Approving the Petroleum Administrator motion is a tremendous improvement to how LA manages oil production, and the full-time Petroleum Administrator will help ensure that oil and gas drilling will not continue to threaten health and safety in our neighborhoods. Approving this motion also takes a step toward finally approving the fracking moratorium Mike co-authored, by allowing the CAO to hire someone who can provide the added insight and advice the City Attorney says the city needs to battle the inevitable oil industry legal challenge to the fracking moratorium ordinance if it is ultimately approved.

Mike Joins Colleagues to Call for Investigation into Abnormally High SoCalGas Bills



Does your SoCalGas bill seem abnormally high? Mike is trying to get to the bottom of it.

After a number of Westside residents began calling to report abnormally high bills from SoCalGas, Mike worked with his colleague Mitchell Englander to introduce legislation calling for an investigation into the high bills.

Whether the unusually high bills are an issue with SoCalGas meters, or if the extra costs are related to the ongoing Aliso Canyon gas leak, people deserve answers and this legislation asks that both local and state authorities help hold SoCalGas accountable.

Mike's iPads for Firefighters Program Helping Improve Public Safety in Neighborhoods



The men and women who respond to emergencies in our neighborhoods deserve the best tools to help them do their jobs efficiently and effectively. One of Mike's earliest legislative proposals was a program to equip firefighters with tablet technology like iPads, which can have unlimited potential to assist first responders in their crucial jobs.

Beginning in May, Mike's initiative is taking a giant leap forward. Thanks to the partnership of Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas, the LAFD will issue 50 donated iPads to frontline emergency personnel. With the help of specialized apps, these tablets will be used for incident mapping, scene assessment, resource tracking, and other functions that help firefighters save lives and property during an emergency.

This is the first step to realizing Mike's vision of providing our firefighters with the tools and technology necessary to work smarter, safer and more productively.

Paid Family Leave Proposal Advances



Working families deserve support from their employers, and the City Council took a big step last month toward establishing a paid family leave policy that will help families as they welcome new additions.

On February 17, the City Council unanimously approved a motion by Councilmembers Nury Martinez and Paul Krekorian to study offering up to four weeks paid leave to city employees who become parents (including foster and adoptive parents). While the federal and state government lag behind countries throughout the world and private employers who allow new parents to take time to bond with their new children, the City is helping to lead by example by moving forward with a smart, compassionate family leave policy.

Mike and Colleagues Demand Answers About Citywide Rise in Crime



The Westside has some of the safest neighborhoods in Los Angeles, but last year crime rose in several areas, and Mike is working to make sure the LAPD stays on top of it and keeps our homes, families, and neighborhoods safe.

On February 16, Mike and his colleagues on the City Council's Public Safety Committee grilled LAPD leaders questions about police deployment and the recent crime spikes. Mike is becoming increasingly concerned that LAPD may be pulling officers off patrol and out of the Westside as part of a crime-suppression redeployment in other parts of Los Angeles.

Mike is very concerned that LAPD is cutting back on neighborhood police patrols, and worries the dynamic is exacerbated by vacant civilian positions in the LAPD being filled by sworn officers. Mike is insistent that LAPD fill its civilian vacancies with civilians, and put cops back in our neighborhoods on patrol.

Mike asked for data and metrics on deployment and staffing. The committee is going to continue focusing on police deployment over the next several months.

Earthquake Retrofits - Costs to Be Shared Between Landlords and Tenants



The most severe threat to neighborhoods from earthquakes is physical damage to vulnerable buildings. Soft story buildings are wood frame structures where the first floor has large openings (such as tuck-under parking spaces or large windows). These openings create an unusually flexible or weak first story, which does not allow the building to have resistance to an earthquake's sideways motions. This can result in the complete destruction of the building and the potential for significant loss of life.

The City Council and Mayor Garcetti approved a policy last month requiring all 13,500 soft-story buildings in the City to be retrofitted to make them safe. The costs of the required safety upgrades will be shared by renters and landlords. [Click here to find out more about the soft-story renovation program.](#)

SMALL BUSINESS CORNER

February Small Business Spotlights

Local small businesses provide more than jobs for people on the Westside - they are part of what make neighborhoods great. Each week, Mike chooses a local Mom and Pop business to feature on social media in his "[Small Business Spotlight](#)."

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

CREATING JOBS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND PUTTING NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

Del Rey

4804 1/2 S CENTINELA AVE, 90066 - (310) 636-1043

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

CREATING JOBS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND PUTTING NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

Lax Coffee Co.
Family restaurant
Since 1978
Westchester

8751 La Tijera Blvd.,
Westchester, CA 90045
P: 310-645-7315
www.laxcoffeeco.com

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

CREATING JOBS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND PUTTING NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

Carby K

Pacific Palisades

15227 W. Sunset Blvd
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
(310) 454-1086

Del Rey

THE SOLAR AUDITOR

888-406-1041
www.thesolarauditor.com

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

CREATING JOBS, BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND PUTTING NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

[Do you have a favorite business you want to nominate to be featured in Mike's Small Business Spotlight? You can make a nomination for the "Small Business Spotlight" at this link.](#)

Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter

YOUR TEAM: PERSONNEL UPDATE

Promotions and New Hires Build Mike's Team Serving Neighborhoods on the Westside

ANNA KOZMA
Field Deputy
Westchester and Playa del Rey

TAYLOR BAZLEY
Field Deputy
Venice

MAGALI FLORES NUÑEZ
Constituent Advocate
West Los Angeles

PROMOTIONS AND NEW HIRES

Mike is proud to announce one promotion and two new additions to his team serving neighbors on the Westside!

Last month, former West LA Constituent Advocate Anna Kozma was promoted to Field Deputy for Westchester and Playa del Rey. Anna takes over for Fred Sutton who accepted a position outside of the office after serving in both West LA and Westchester for the past two years. Anna has been an exceptional voice for constituents, helping to cut red tape and put neighborhoods first and she will be a welcome addition to the Westchester and Playa del Rey communities.

Mike also hired two new members of his staff, including Taylor Bazley, who will serve as Field Deputy in Venice, and Magali Flores Nuñez, who will serve as a Constituent Advocate in Mike's West LA office. Chuy Orozco, who had been covering Venice, will now focus exclusively on the Del Rey and Playa Vista neighborhoods.

Taylor is an alumnus of the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs, where he was placed at a number of political, elected, labor, nonprofit, and tech industry organizations, working on projects to solve problems and add strategic value. He brings extensive political experience to Mike's team, having worked or volunteered for a number of political campaigns, including

Jeffrey Prang for LA County Assessor, Sebastian Ridley-Thomas for State Assembly, and Betsy Butler for State Senate. He is also heavily involved in local Democratic Party and LGBT groups, such as Stonewall Democratic Club and Equality California.

Magali previously worked for Congressman Tony Cardenas, where she served as a casework intern, and she also brings professional experience working on tough patient cases in the healthcare field. She double-majored in Ethnic Studies and Society and Environment at the University of California, Berkeley; and she is fluent in Spanish, and proficient in Portuguese.

[Click here to find out more about Anna, Taylor and Magali.](#)

Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter

CONNECT & GET INVOLVED

Run for Neighborhood Council!

Run to be a part of your
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Westside Candidate Registration Open!

EMPOWER LA
Department of
NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

When the City Charter was adopted, a process was outlined to engage neighbors in monitoring important issues in their communities, such as public safety, land use and development, transportation, and parking. Neighborhood Councils are official bodies that work with Council Offices to ensure neighborhoods are part of the decisions affecting Los Angeles, and the board members who volunteer to serve their communities help make LA a better place to live, work and enjoy.

Registration for Westside Neighborhood Council elections began on February 21 and will be open until the elections on June 5. Please consider running for a seat and helping me put neighborhoods first on the Westside.

Find out more and register at EmpowerLA at <http://empowerla.org/elections/>

Helpful Links

- [Contact Us](#) - Submit a comment, question or concern, using our helpful website form.
- [Maps and Directions](#) - Visit us in one of our two district offices, or downtown at City Hall.
- [Request City Services](#) - Have a pothole that needs to be filled or a tree that needs to be trimmed? Submit a service request directly to the city.
- [Sign Up for Updates](#) - You are already signed up if you received this email, but are all of your friends? Forward this message, or share this link with your neighbors so they can get the latest news about their neighborhood as well.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Find out what's happening in your neighborhood!

- **Martin Town Center Community Hearing**
 - **When:** Wednesday, March 2; 4pm
 - **Where:** West Los Angeles Municipal Building's Second Floor Hearing Room (1645 Corinth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025)
 - **Find Out More:** http://www.11thdistrict.com/martin_town_center_public_hearing_march_2
- **Culver/Marina Little League Opening Day**
 - **When:** March 12, 12pm
 - **Where:** 13120 Culver Blvd, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
 - **Find Out More:** <http://www.culvermarinalittleleague.com/Default.aspx?alias=www.culvermarinalittleleague.com/culvermarinalittleleague>
- **DWP Community Meeting - Poletop Power Substations in the Pacific Palisades**
 - **When:** March 14, 7:30pm
 - **Where:** Marquez Charter Elementary
 - **Find Out More:** http://www.11thdistrict.com/dwp_community_meeting_pp_3_14
- **Westchester Community Traffic Meeting**
 - **When:** March 22; 7:30pm
 - **Where:** Westchester Community Room (7166 W Manchester Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045)
 - **Find Out More:** Email Jessie.Holzer@lacity.org
- **Expo Line Phase 2 Opens!**
 - **When:** May 20
 - **Where:** Stations throughout the Westside
 - **Find Out More:** In the Transportation Section above

Have an event you would like listed? Email updates@11thdistrict.com to submit events.

Thank you for reading the February issue of Mike Bonin's Neighborhoods First Newsletter.

For more about Mike and Council District 11, please visit www.11thdistrict.com

Council District 11 · 1645 Corinth Ave, 201, Los Angeles, CA 90025, United States
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